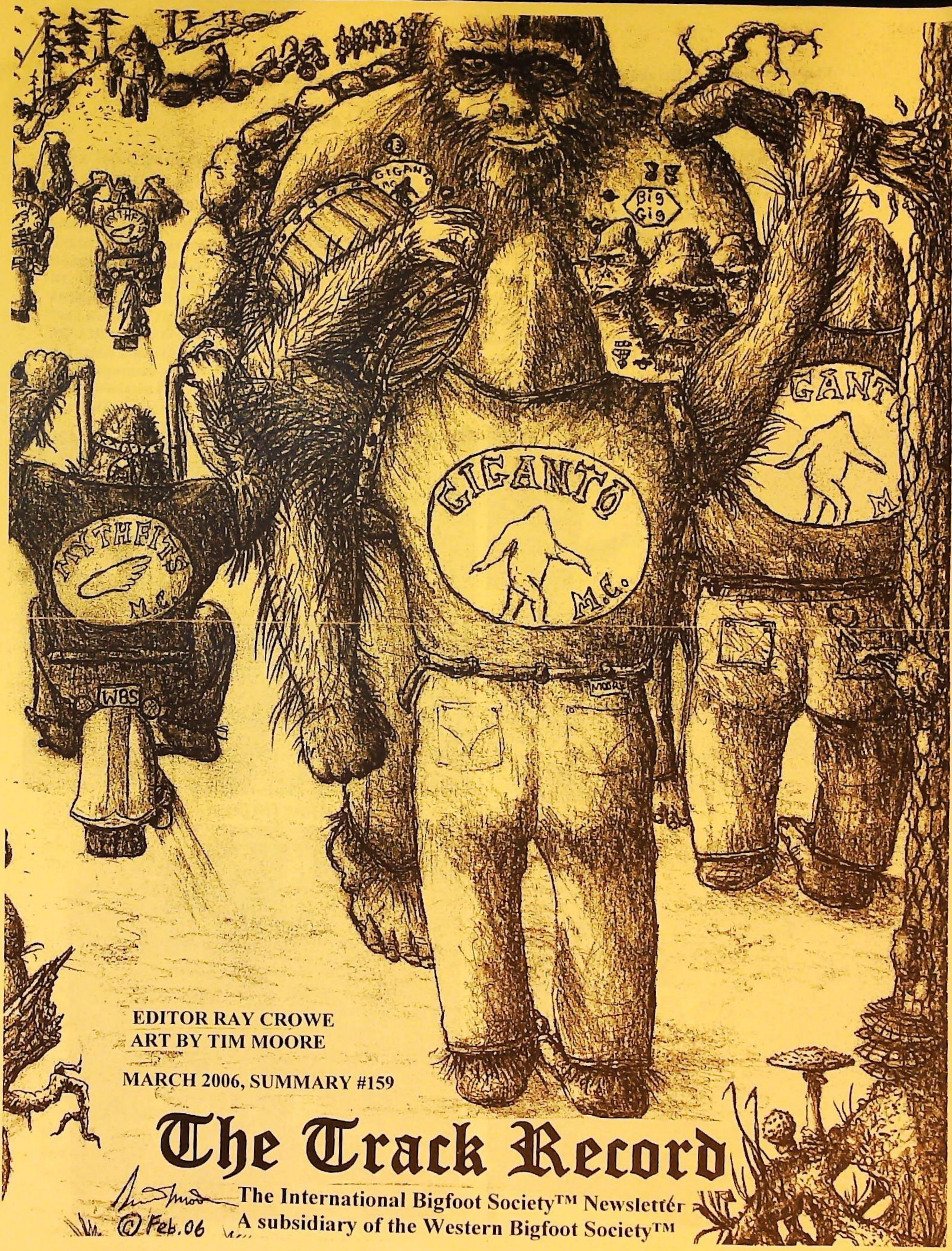


EDITOR RAY CROWE
ART BY TIM MOORE

MARCH 2006, SUMMARY #159

The Track Record

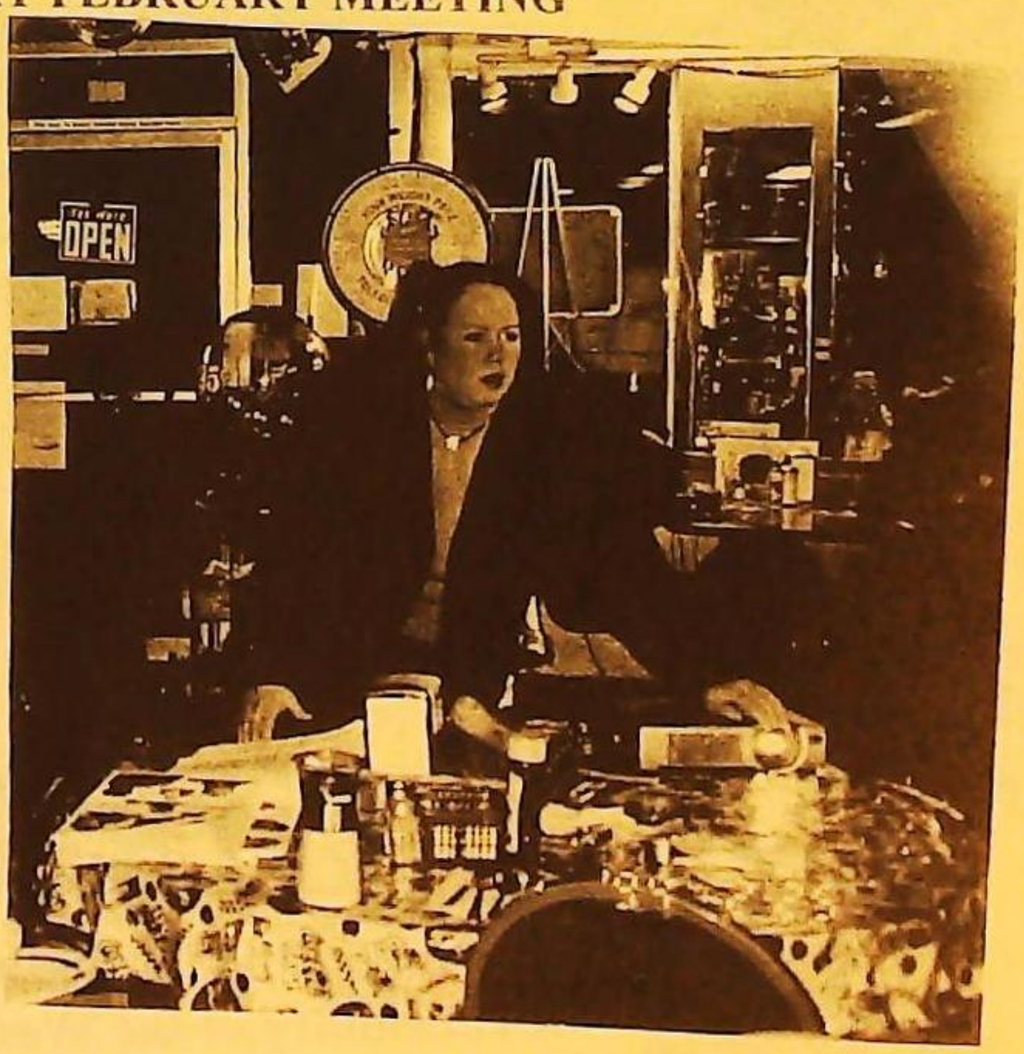
The International Bigfoot Society™ Newsletter
A subsidiary of the Western Bigfoot Society™

© Feb. 06

MEETING STUFF

Vice President Patti Reinhold called the meeting to order and reminded everyone that this year we will have another Pow –Wow at Longbow Camp on September 9, 10, & 11th (Saturday, Sunday & Monday) (more information to follow). Our guest speaker for February 25th was Leann McCoy. Topic was "How to get to know and see a Sasquatch". Leann began mountain climbing with her father at an early age and as her family loved to get into the back country of the wilderness for vacations and weekends she has had many sasquatch experiences here in the PNW and sightings. She also had some long distance pictures to share. Hand outs included: a quote from Chief Dan George (Salish Chief in BC, Canada) (below), a personal Sasquatch story of Leann's (below), a recount of The Creation and the Great Deluge from the Delaware tribes obtained by Professor C.S. Rafinesque in 1822 (below), a prayer by Iron Eyes Cody that may be used by all who seek to "Walk In Balance" and info on the native american smoking ceremony from the book Indian Medicine Power by Brad Steigher (Whitford Press 1984) (below), and (not included in this TR) two "Wild Man" stories from a book titled "Nehalem Tillamook Tales" told by Clara Pearson recorded by Elizabeth Derr Jabcobs introduction by Jarold Ramsey OSU Press….an excellent book if you can find it of very detailed native Chinook stories. V. McCoy

LEANNE McCOY SPEAKS AT FEBRUARY MEETING



The Track Record

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*** REMEMBER...WE NEED YOUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOW... POST OFFICE THROWS AWAY BULK MAIL. Sorry, I can't replace if lost due to address change. Back order is possible.**

MEETING

Monthly meetings will be at the Home Plate, 8501 N. Lombard, Portland. Dinner at 6PM and meet at 7PM, All invited. Free to the public (no indoor meeting in July, Aug., Nov. or Dec.). There will be a mini-museum and items will be for sale by owner Patti Dietz. Next meeting will be January 28, 2006. Hope you all had a good holiday season.

MEETING STUFF

BIGFOOT REPORTS

*** From Chanda McCrary chanda.mccrary@leggett.com , Feb 13, 2006**

My witness that owns the horse with braided mane (see Track Record #157) has seen her first Bigfoot there today! Yay! She saw the upper 3-4ft of his/her torso, and hair color was rusty brown. She described the being as being very big. Of course! I am very excited. I have also gotten further photos of new braids. (SW Missouri)

From "Chanda McCrary" Feb 14th

As luck would have it, I went to my research area (also SW MO) last night and saw two of them standing in the bright moonlight. They were some distance away but I had to go there for a certain reason. It was an exciting day for us both! Anyway, I left and returned later and they were gone. I only saw silhouette, but that was enough for me!

NOTE: USE SKEPTICALS ON ALL ITEMS...THEY COULD BE UNTRUE!

*** Keep Skepticals on tightly please**
Sighting: Cal McInville, 2030 Cashua ferry Rd Darlington, SC 29532; 843-307-9005
calmcinville@sc.rr.com
Can you contact: Yes; Can you publish: yes
Date: 1983-84; Time: 12-3 pm. Location: along bank of the Great Pee Dee River; I was idling upstream in a small motorboat in the middle of the river. Other Witnesses: my father
Description of sighting: My father and me were going up-river in our boat just looking around when I happened to look over to the left bank about 100 feet away I see an animal that's squatting down with its feet on the ground with knees bent like it was doing something between it's legs it looked up and I looked right into it's face all in a split second it was diving into the river head first with it's arms extended I saw it about a half a second before it saw me then in another second it was gone and we never saw it surface. We went over and looked where it was and it was mostly rocks and smeared clay I really wish we had explored the area more. I don\'t know why we did not
Physical Attributes: It was about the size of an average man, with long reddish brown hair covering it's body, but around the face the hair seemed much lighter in color! This is about all can say about what I saw but I am 100% positive it was some type of undiscovered animal.

*** Sighting: TIM JOHNSON; 401 MILL RD BROWNSVILLE, PA 15417; 724-785-7173**
Can you contact: Yes; Can you publish: yes
Date: 8-12-03;Time: 3;00-3;45am
Location: DUNBAR MOUNTAINS
Actions of reporter: SLEEPING IN A TENT
Witnesses: BRANDY JOHNSON
Description of sighting: I WAS SLEEPING WHEN MY WIFE WOKE ME UP TO STRANGE SOUND, AND BAD SMELL.. I HAD A SMALL DOG THAT WAS WITH US, NAMED SQUIRT, AND THIS DOG WASN'T SCARED OF NOTHING, UNTIL THEN, CAUSE HE WOULDN'T GO OUT THE TENT;.HE JUST STARED AT THE OPENING OF THE TENT WHINNING. THAT'S WHAT MADE ME JUMPY, AND MY WIFE, CAUSE WE HAD HER NEPHEW AND HE WAS A BABY AT THAT TIME, WE COULDNT GET HIM TO STOP CRYING. AND YOU COULD HEAR IT MAKING THIS NOISE AROUND THE TENT. I HAD MY RIFLE, AND 9MM WITH ME CAUSE I'M NOT AN OUTDOORSMAN. BUT I GAVE MY WIFE MY GUN AND TOOK MY RIFLE.

AND STARTED TALKING LOUD SO THAT WHAT EVER IT IS WAS KNEW THAT WE WAS WOKE CAUSE THE BABY KEPT CRYING ANYWAY. I WENT OUT THE TENT, AND SOMETHING MOVING AROUND BUT COULDN'T TELL WHAT IT WAS, BUT KNEW I COULDN'T LET THAT FIRE GO OUT OR GO BACK TO SLEEP. THE NEXT MORINING WE PACK AND LEFT, AND NEVER BEEN BACK .YOU CAN BELIEVE ME OR NOT, I DON'T CARE. I JUST WANTED PEOPLE TO KNOW TO LOOK AND SEE.

* Copied from Murphy File Newsletter #6
Ken Kristian tells me that there was a fairly recent sasquatch sighting on the Chehalis flats, WA. He goes on and states, "We were out about on the flats three weeks after it happened and found some evidence of possible sasquatch tracks where the creatures were possibly digging for freshwater clams. This all took place near an area where possible vocalizations have been heard and recorded by residents. I have one witness who saw what he believes was a huge, dark colored sasquatch moving rapidly across the flats in a northeasterly direction, as well as two witnesses who saw possible fresh sasquatch footprints in the mud. I also have a tape of about eight minutes of possible sasquatch vocalizations recorded by residents.
" Ken has kindly given me a full report which I have provided. I believe Chehalis is a very lucrative area for sasquatch activity."

* Use Skepticals on this one also please
Sighting: Glenn Ingram, 1505 Fort street,, Barling, , Arkansas 72923; 719-4923
wheels_glenn_ingram@yahoo.com
Can you contact: Yes, Can you publish: yes
Date: June 12, 1978; Time: 10pm,--til-2am
Location: abandoned,(de-commissioned) barracks at the outskirts of Fort Chaffee, Ar...Heavily wooded area.
Some school buddies and I were trying to "camp out" that summer, essentially knowing very little about property rights or whether or not it was allowed in that location.
Witnesses: Travis Yates, Sean Mathew Dobbs, Jerry Dobbs, Kenneth Hamby.
Description of sighting; we were seeing flashes of light outside the tent, and suspected a storm was moving in, assuming the flashes were lightning. It was well after dusk, but Travis and I decided to place our things inside the tent with us, so to keep them dry. We came out to see this tall (at least 6'9") creature. Its eyes were dark, the whites were round, but while they were wide open, it seemed more natural for this to be so, rather than it being frightened, or threatening, but unblinking, like it was having trouble seeing in the dark.
Physical Attributes: most notable was the movement of the thing, aside, naturally, that none of us knew what it was. It was pasty grey, almost gleamy, fur or hair extremely fine and so light you could see clearly the outline of a light skinned body underneath it. It made very little if any noise, smelled unlike anything I can think to compare it to, (except dry mud.) mostly, how it moved was the strange thing. Ken started throwing rocks at it the second he saw it, yelling get away, get away, get away...repeatedly, while I can remember trying to throw a stick, (but honestly, I had already run too far from it to hit it.) Travis had booked on passed me and Jerry, so it was for many seconds dodging rocks, then following Sean and Kenny, who were closest to it, then it nonchalantly turned toward the woods and walked into a clump of driftwood and sticks at the far end of some pines. It covered a lot of ground, about forty yards in maybe three seconds, without showing any effort of movement at all. I figure there could be more of these, but this one didn't look like what people commonly call "bigfoot" as it was not hulky, or mean looking, and was not Dark even in skin color, it was just like a really big lemur walking on two feet.

* Definitely Skepticals on this one, Including this phony just for laughs.
Sighting: Jimmy Bogart, 8429 Heaven Dr.
San Francisco, California 33332, 405-867-5309
zigzach27@aol.com, www.xanga.com/ZachGdude
Can you contact: Yes, Can you publish: yes
Date: 3-31—06, Time: dusk, maybe night pm
Location: mountain top,
Actions of reporter: I just smoked a whole bunch of reefer and all the sudden I saw this huge hairy guy walk up to me, take my bong, and run.
Sure I'm blind in one eye. and my other eye's infected. and i'd been swimming in a pool with too much chlorine, and that was the hour my glasses were at lens crafters, but I saw big foot.
Witnesses: Bob the magic tree
Description of sighting: it was fun fun fun
Physical Attributes: big, hairy, very fat, brown hair, reddish gorilla skin. Blue eyes. Huge feet.
Man, smelled like...like you know when you forget to put on deodorant? Yeah that, and old cheese. He made a burping coughing sound. He was bleeding from the knee caps. I'm serious I tried to help him but he took my bong. (Not bad for being blind)

* "Fortean" <sieveking@forteantimes.com>, "Karl Shuker" <Karlshuker@aol.com>, "BCSCC"
Bigfoot in Illinois?
From WLS-TV, Channel 7 (Chicago): 14 Feb. 2006, Bigfoot hunters converge on central Illinois. Bigfoot may be roaming central Illinois, at least that's what some hunters hope. A Bloomington man claims he spotted an 8-foot tall, 400 pound Sasquatch last year in McClean County while he was driving home from work. Word of the possible sighting reached a group of Bigfoot hunters in California who are now in Illinois for the next few days with their equipment to catch a glimpse of the big and hairy creature."What more can be said that hasn't been said? I've been ridiculed, but the proof is in the pudding, Jack, and that's the reason why myself and my team are out here now investigating across this great United States of America,"said Tom Biscardi, Bigfoot hunter. The hunters believe they might be onto something.

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net>
Subject: More on Illinois Bigfoot
From The Pantagraph (Bloomington, IL): 14 Feb. 2006. Researchers look for Bigfoot; zoologist skeptical, By Sharon K. Wolfe
FUNKS GROVE - Researchers have been looking for Bigfoot in Funks Grove, but a local zoologist interested in

the elusive creature's lore said he would be very surprised if one is found there. A report last fall by people who said they saw a large hairy upright creature in a ditch in rural Shirley attracted a team of researchers from Searching for Bigfoot Inc. of Menlo Park, Calif.

Angelo Capparella, a professor at Illinois State University, said he also heard the report and talked to the people at the time.He said that if there is a Bigfoot - a big if in his book - Central Illinois is not the place to find one. Even though Funks Grove is a wooded area, there just isn't much habitat locally to support or conceal a large primate, Capparella said. "Illinois ranks 49th out of 50 in the amount of natural vegetation left," he said. Only Iowa has less. "As a zoologist, it's hard to give a lot of credence," he said. The Pacific Northwest, the traditional center for Bigfoot sightings, has a lot of remote, rugged areas, he said. "I'm a zoologist who's taken a curiosity in the Pacific Northwest," he said.

The research group from northern California has been stopping at various locations in the United States to track reports of the creature also known as sasquatch. Team leader Tom Biscardi told a local television station he has been searching for three decades, and he estimates there are more than 3,500 Bigfoot-like animals in the United States. Biscardi's team has focused on Texas, Oklahoma, Ohio, California, Oregon, Montana and Washington, said the group's Web site.

The professor said he talked to the people from Bloomington who claimed they saw Bigfoot last fall. The creature allegedly scratched their car.
Capparella told them to try to record noises, get hair samples and look for footprints. He said he could make nothing out of the pictures they took."They gave me a call," Capparella said. "They seemed sincere about seeing something." He has not heard from them since last fall. "They apparently contacted Tom Biscardi," he said.

They told Capparella they also heard strange noises and they were able to get the creature to interact with them in some way. Capparella noted Bigfoot is supposed to be very shy so this behavior would be highly unusual.

* From :"Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net> |
Bigfoot in Illinois; From the Peoria (IL) Journal Star: 15 Feb. 2006, Bloomington man says huge creature hit his car,
BY ANDREA FRAMPTON

FUNKS GROVE - He has such names as Bigfoot, Yeti and Sasquatch, and he may be lurking around central Illinois, according to Tom Biscardi. Biscardi, a California resident, believes Bigfoot is more than a legend and has been hunting the creature since 1973. The founder of Searching for Bigfoot Inc. is convinced a rural area near Funks Grove can support two of the creatures he says would weigh around 350 pounds each. After visiting the area this week, he said there are enough small rodents, grubs and vegetation for the hairy pair to munch. "Nobody in the field is doing this like us. They're not in the firing trenches, not braving the temperatures, there's plenty of places that those creatures can be concealed," Biscardi said. "There may be a little Hub there. Don't be too surprised to see a bear in the springtime. I have a feeling." Biscardi and a four-man team of animal trappers traveled to Funks Grove early this week armed with infrared cameras, thermal imagers, motion cameras and tranquilizer guns. The Bigfoot search team was drawn to the area this week by a phone call last summer from Bloomington resident Chris Vielhak. Vielhak said he saw a large black creature he thought at first was a bear run behind his 1990 Mustang as he drove slowly down State Route 66. After he felt a slap to the side of his car, Vielhak said he was startled and sped away to discover five large claw marks on the trunk. Vielhak called Biscardi after doing some research on the Internet. "It kept bugging me and fascinated me about what hit my car, and it ticked me off because paint jobs cost money," said Vielhak, 31. "Many people may not believe me, that's up to them. I walked with Tom and took him to where I saw it." Bob Schmalzbach, secretary for Searching for Bigfoot Inc., said the marks are not distinct enough to indicate the kind of creature that may have made them. Vielhak said he has no plans for wildlife experts to inspect the marks. Illinois Department of Natural Resources spokesman Chris McCloud said there has never been a public demand to check possible sightings of a Bigfoot. The IDNR deals with animals native to Illinois, and Bigfoot is not one of them, he said.

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net> |
(Think this one is a phony also, Ray)
Subject : Bigfoot in Britain?
From the Birmingham (UK) Mail: 14 Feb. 2006
Team called in over Bigfoot sightings Feb 14 2006

REPORTS were circulating today that a strange beast is roaming Cannock Chase - and now paranormal investigators are investigating. A Bigfoot-type creature is said to be roaming the woodland of Cannock Chase and a number of eyewitness accounts are adding weight to allegations that Sasquatch - as Red Indians dubbed the creature - is alive. Respected "X Files" reporter Nick Redfern has monitored sightings from Castle Ring to Slitting Mill. And all of the locals who spotted the mystery beast give the same description - a giant, hairy creature with blazing red eyes. Jackie Haughton sparked the Bigfoot alert with a sighting in the early hours of February 18, 1995, on the Cannock-Rugeley road. Writing for Fate magazine, Mr Redfern reports: "She was suddenly forced To swerve the car and narrowly avoided collision with a large, shambling creature that stepped into the road at a distance of about 20 feet. "Considering that she was traveling at high speed, said Jackie, it was a miracle that she didn't hit it. The encounter lasted barely a few seconds, but she had caught sight of the animal and said it was man-like and tall, very hairy, with two self-illuminating, glowing red eyes. It quickly vanished into the trees." Jackie's claims gained credence when a motorist and his party recorded a sighting on a night in September, 1998. One of the party of four said: "It was a tall, man-like figure, sort of crouching forward. As we passed, it turned and looked straight at us. "I would describe it as around 6ft 8in, very strong-looking and with a darkish, blacky-brown coat. I still get goosebumps thinking about it."

Alec Williams had an eight second encounter with Bigfoot at Castle Ring – an ancient monument - in April 2004. He describes a 7ft creature, with short, shiny, dark brown hair, large head and eyes that glow bright red. Mr Williams claims he saw what looked like a camera flash nearby and heard an "owl-like cry".

MISCELANEOUS

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net> |

From the Discovery Channel: 9 Feb. 2006

Yeti and Sasquatch - bears in disguise? By Sara Beck; Could the Abominable Snowman be a bear?

Adventurer Reinhold Messner thinks so. And he's spreading his theory in his own book and media interviews. Messner is one of the world's greatest mountain climbers. He was the first to reach the summit of Mount Everest without using oxygen tanks, and has gone on to conquer all 14 of the world's 8,000 meter mountains. He is no stranger to snowy, icy wastelands, and other places where myth and mystery meet. The Yeti, or "Abominable Snowman", has lived in the folklore of the Himalayas for centuries. It is believed to be large creature, standing 9 or 10 feet tall, covered in brown or red hair, and capable of vicious attacks on people and animals. Messner had seen pictures of Yeti footprints many times before, but he first saw a Yeti with his own eyes in 1986. He described the encounter to National Geographic's Adventure magazine. The light outside was dim when he saw the creature. He couldn't see it distinctly, look at its face, or even tell what color it was, but he saw its form clearly enough. When the Yeti moved on, he went to the place where it had stood to look at the footprints it had left behind. Sure enough, they were "Yeti prints". The footprints were the exactly the same as those he'd seen in the photographs.

And that was the curious thing. The Yeti is believed to stand upright, like a human. The creature he had seen didn't stand up, but when Messner looked at the prints, he saw that they looked like they'd been made by a bipedal creature.

How could that be? Messner says there is a creature that uses a special technique when walking over difficult or snowy ground. It places its back feet directly in the prints its front feet left behind, making the footprints look like they were made by something that walked on two legs. And, this creature can stand upright, making it look like a large, furry human, 9 or 10 feet tall. It is the Asiatic black bear, also known as the Tibetan Moon bear.

Could the Yeti be this bear? Although young Asiatic black bears are still sometimes captured and trained as dancing bears, a full-grown adult can stand around 9 feet tall. Given its fierceness, height, and ability to walk on its hind legs for longer distances than any other bear, it definitely could be the beast behind the Yeti legend. Messner describes that his suspicions were confirmed when traveling through eastern Tibet and later in Pakistan. Villagers told him about a creature that was stealing women and killing yaks. A Yeti. When Messner asked the villagers if they could show him one of these creatures, they led him to a remote area. When they spotted a Yeti, the villagers pointed and told Messner it was precisely the creature that was plaguing the village. Messner recognized it immediately. It was an Asiatic black bear. It's possible that people don't recognize the Yeti as a bear because the creature is nocturnal, lives in remote caves and is generally spotted when in poor light and shadow. With Messner's conviction, those shadows are beginning to lift.

And the North American bigfoot legends? Messner is sure a grizzly bear is behind them, too.

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net>

From the Electric New Paper (Singapore): 14 Feb. 2006. These are made by humans, but who made these? By Teh Jen Lee. IF YOU see footprints like those above in Batam, don't get alarmed. No, the mythical 'Bigfoot' that was 'spotted' in the Johor jungles late last year has not made its way to the Indonesian island. The giant footprints are actually the handiwork of several Singaporeans who are trying to check whether the Bigfoot sightings in Johor are credible or nothing more than a hoax. The members from the Singapore Paranormal Investigators (SPI), a non-profit club here, told The New Paper in an interview last month that they were scheduled to conduct an expedition into the jungles in Johor to search for tell-tale signs to prove the existence of the Bigfoot.

TREK NO-GO. But at the eleventh hour, their request to trek into the jungle were turned down by the Malaysian authorities. So the SPI decided to take matters into their own hands, or rather feet, and conduct a Bigfoot experiment in Batam. Last month, nine SPI members went to a mangrove in Batam to test whether the prints published in Malaysian papers, allegedly belonging to a large, ape-like beast, could have been made by a human wearing scuba-diving flippers. SPI member Alvic Tan, 29, donned a pair of flippers and left some footprints on the soft mangrove mud. These were later compared to the photo of footprints that were published in Malaysian papers last December. SPI president Kenny Fong, an assistant professor based in Macau, said: 'The Malaysian Bigfoot photo that was in the papers showed a footprint in a triangular shape but without toe marks, resembling a waddle. 'It was therefore speculated to be possibly a diver's footprint on the soft mud.' He added that SPI had chosen to conduct the experiment in a muddy swamp similar to the river shore in Kampong Mawai where the Bigfoot prints were allegedly photographed.

FLIPPERS OR SUN BEARS? Diving flippers was one of the four theories proposed on SPI's online forum on what could have made those 'Bigfoot' prints. For example, army divers could have been walking about in their diving gear while on training. The other theories include humans wearing wide, triangular sandals and animals like the sun bear. Mr Tan, who works in IT, volunteered to wear the flippers because 'no one else wanted to try as it was dirty and muddy'. He said: 'Someone's got to do it. I was quite happy to oblige because it's my interest. We wanted to find out if the shape of the photographed footprint can be created by fins.' At first, he walked with the flippers on the soft mud soil. Those footprints didn't look anything like the Bigfoot 'prints'. The part that sank into the mud was on the heel position, whereas the front part only left a slight border mark on the mud. Dr Fong noted that this ruled out the theory that the tracks were made by divers walking normally in flippers.

NOT EASY, They took the experiment a further step in which he stepped on the front part of the flippers worn by Mr Tan. This resulted in footprints that did look more like the alleged Bigfoot ones. This raised the possibility that the footprints were falsely created. But based on SPI's experiment, Mr Tan said that it would not be easy to create the Bigfoot prints using fins. 'The photographed footprint published seemed to have a vague toe outline, which can't be made using flippers,' he said. 'Of course if we have the

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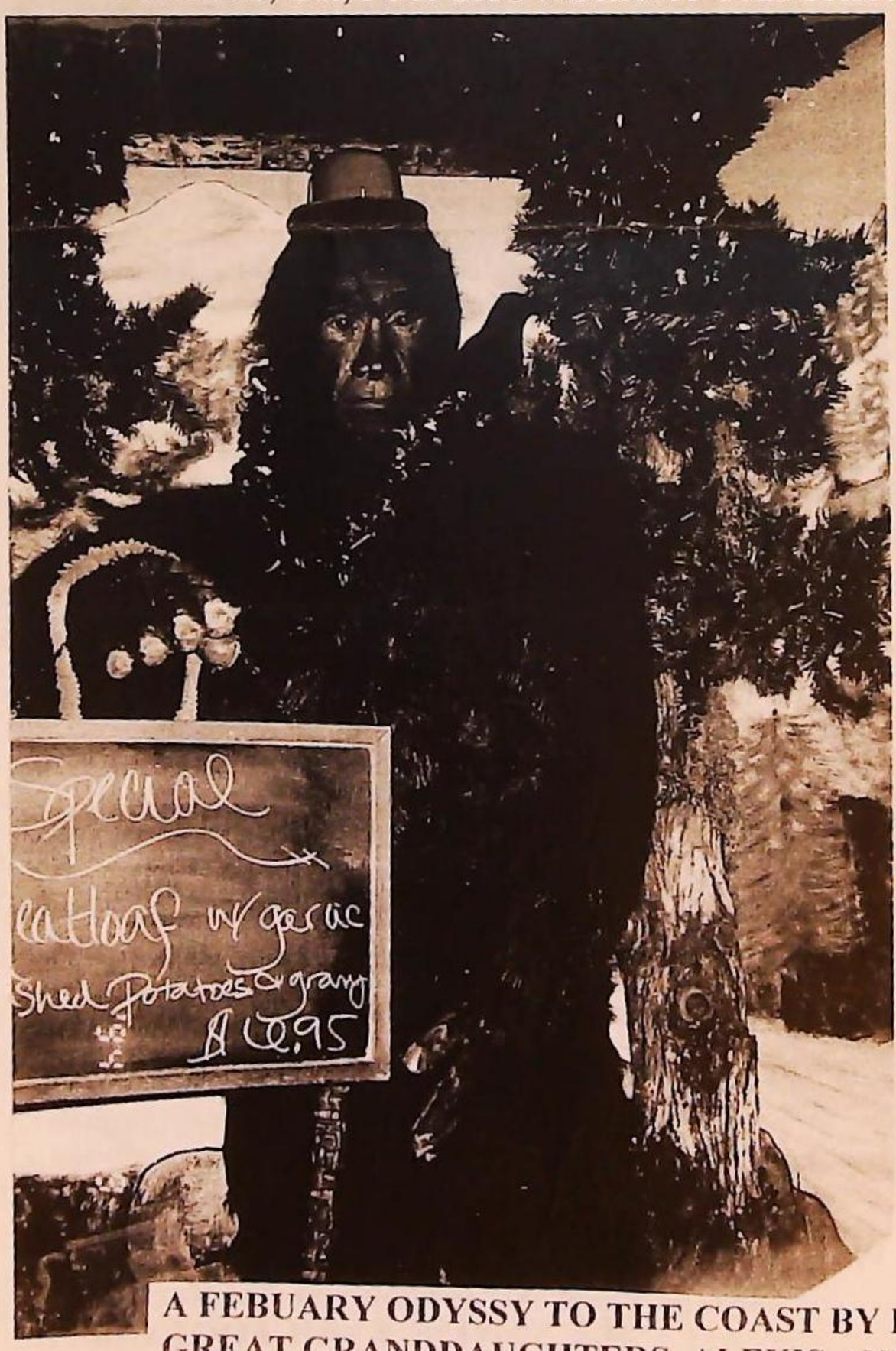
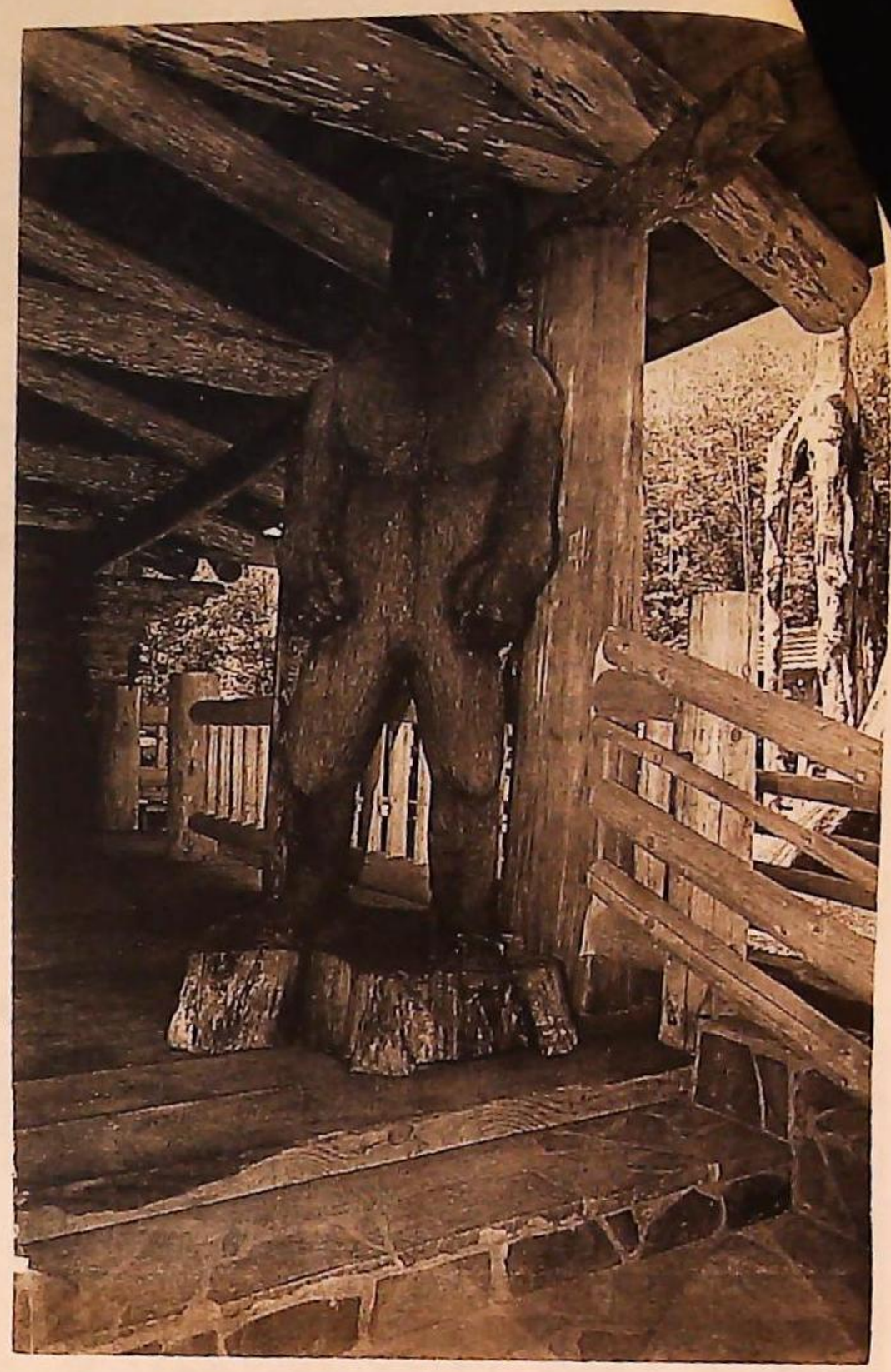
SEASIDE, OR, FOR CHOWDER AT THE BAR AND GRILL



A FEBUARY ODYSSY TO THE COAST BY RAY AND HIS DAUGHTER AND GREAT GRANDDAUGHTERS. ALEXIS AND JENELLE (TURN PAGE ALSO)



MILEPOST 20, OR, FOR LUNCH

JAKE, THE ALLIGATOR BOY AT LONGBEACH, WA

KENTUCKY BEAST MAN
SEE KENTUCKYBIGFOOT.COM
THANKS BART

chance to see the actual print in Johor, that would help.' For now, the jury is still out on the big footprints sighted in Johor.

(It would be interesting to see how many of the TR readers believe the Johor tracks are for real; please respond, Ray)

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net> |

From the Electric New Paper (Singapore): 14 Feb. 2006; Could 'Bigfoot prints' be that of orang utan?

ANOTHER group which calls itself Asia Paranormal Investigators (API) claims to have shed some light on the Johor Bigfoot mystery. After doing historical research, map analysis and interviews of locals in Johor, API's founder Charles Goh, 38, a part-time tour guide, claims that the Bigfoot sightings in Johor were nothing more than misinformation.

SAME SIGHTING? 'Many different sightings reported actually stemmed from just one incident last November. The sightings in Mawai of three fish farm workers and the sightings in Kahang of three Orang Asli are the same,' said Mr Goh. He has led a few trips to Johor to verify witness accounts that were reported in the press. After carefully going through various media reports, he found inconsistencies, possibly due to insufficient information being released or poor interviewing techniques. For example, one reported sighting seemed to involve two locations – Kincin River and Kampung Mawai - but these are actually 80km apart. Mr Goh thinks the creature sighted in November could have been an orangutan species that managed to survive in Peninsular Malaysia for thousands of years. He said: 'The other two known species are in Sumatra and Borneo island. 'This could well be the third because Johor lies within the same geographical band. 'The reason for there being more sightings in recent years could be due to human encroachment into pristine jungle habitats.' He added that there have been historical records of encounters between early settlers and orangutans on Mawai.

REPORT OUT; API has come up with a 49-page report on its website www.api.sg on their Bigfoot research. Mr Goh said: 'Not all may agree with our report's findings, but then again, the purpose of any report is critical analysis. 'So we welcome anyone or any organisation with evidence to show that we've erred in our conclusion.'

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net> |

From The Star (Malaysia): 13 Feb. 2006

Bigfoot lives in Johor jungles, says Ghani

DOES Bigfoot really exist? "Yes! Bigfoot exists in Johor," said Mentri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, adding that there was truth in recent reports that some orang asli had sighted the hairy giant brown ape near Kota Tinggi several months ago.

"The orang asli have the ability to sense the presence of Bigfoot by smelling the air and following the tracks. They are not known to make up stories," he said when launching the Johor edition of the tabloid Kosmos! At Danga Bay on Saturday, according to Mingguan Malaysia. "Backed by our own research, we are positive that Bigfoot exists in the jungles of Johor," said Ghani. Media reports of the creature, said to be furry and 24m to 30m tall, surfaced months ago when several orang asli workers claimed to have seen a family of Bigfoots lurking in the jungle.

* From : R Heiden <rwheidenu@yahoo.com> |

Times Square getting peek at peak attraction

A new ride called Expedition Everest is opening at Walt Disney World's Animal Kingdom in Orlando, Fla., in April, but New Yorkers will get a peek at the excitement when Disney brings a preview to Times Square next month. Disney plans to transform the exteriors of the W Hotel and the adjacent Argent building at Broadway and 47th St. into a gigantic backdrop of Mount Everest. An aerial acrobatic troupe will perform there Feb. 15 and 16 on a stage 57 stories high, rappelling down the mountain and coming face to face with a Himalayan yeti - the legendary abominable snowman.

An animatronic beast will also be part of the thrill when the ride opens at the Florida theme park.

The attraction is designed to resemble an old mountain railway, taking guests to the foot of Mount Everest through bamboo forests, past thundering waterfalls and into snowcapped peaks before plunging through canyons to an encounter with the angry yeti.

* "Craig Woolheater" <ecwool@swbell.net> |

Texas Bigfoot Conference. Bigfoot exhibit kicks off April, Edmundo Conchas Express-News Staff Writer, The Institute of Texan Cultures is preparing to spotlight the mystery of a creature known by several names — Bigfoot, Sasquatch, Yeti/Abominable Snowman — with a reported History stretching from the Himalayas to Texas.

Starting April 7, the ITC will offer "Bigfoot in Texas," an exhibit presented through a cooperative effort between the institute and the Dallas-based Texas Bigfoot Research Center.

Institute officials said they are not taking a stand on the actual existence of Bigfoot, described as a large, ape-like creature that walks upright and has been chronicled worldwide in various publications. Instead, they said the exhibit is meant to be Both educational and fun for all visitors.

"The Bigfoot exhibit is very much an examination of a facet of Texas culture from folk belief to the nature of scientific proof," said John L. Davis, the executive director of the institute.

"This is a wild and woolly subject, certainly, but the underlying educational content here is how something can be proven — or disproven — by logical and scientific means."In the mid-1920s, the first recorded sightings of the Abominable Snowman were made by members of a British geological expedition in the Himalayas. Subsequent sightings occurred around the world, according to news reports.

Recently, a group called The Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, founded in 1995, reported sightings throughout the United States, with most coming from five states: Washington, California, Oregon, Ohio and Texas.

The ITC exhibit will feature photographs and hair samples as well as footprint and handprint casts and Fiberglas impressions, courtesy of the research center in Dallas. Visitors also can watch a video presenting Native American beliefs regarding Bigfoot. Guest speakers, including forensic consultants, fingerprint experts and other officials, also are scheduled during the exhibit, which ends July 30.

Craig Woolheater, co-founder and director of the Texas Bigfoot Research Center, said he plans to visit the exhibit. Although the Bigfoot legend is something that has held his interest since childhood, he said his life changed one night in 1994 when he and his wife were driving back to Dallas from New Orleans."We saw something," Woolheater said. "It was dark but it was at least 7 feet tall and walked upright and was covered with hair. I turned to my wife and said 'Did you just see what I saw?'" That sighting led him in 1999 to co-found the center, which follows up sightings and reports from Texas and surrounding states. Most sightings in Texas come from the eastern part, where the forests are thick with vegetation, Woolheater said.

Even though Bigfoot has not been scientifically proven to exist, Woolheater said people still wonder about the creature. The exhibit is aimed at capturing that interest. "Everybody loves a mystery," Woolheater said. "The fact that there could be a large creature roaming the woods of America fascinates people."

"This is a research-in-progress exhibit," Davis said. "It should be educational and fun for all ages of visitors no matter which way they believe."

Tickets for the exhibit are $7 for adults and $4 for children, seniors 65 and older and military personnel with proper identification. The institute is open 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

(Hope they do well...and we'll get a report and some pictures; Ray)

* Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net>

From New Straits Times (Malaysia): 28 March 2006; Group's findings tell another tale

A.O.K.K. Penang - IT is disappointing to see that while international Bigfoot researchers have already provided evidence that the alleged footprint is nothing but two overlapping prints, there are still those who insist that footprints "proving" the existence of Bigfoot were destroyed. An investigation by the Asia Paranormal Investigators, a group based in Singapore with counterparts around Asia, has produced a report, The Malaysian Bigfoot Enigma. It extensively covers the alleged sightings, a local effort as the API's Malaysian Chapter was doing the investigations, via interviews with Orang Asli eye witnesses.

As the local media failed to see this report, which received international recognition and applause, the local scene is rife with all kinds of claims and allegations. Do we really believe that a creature as huge as Bigfoot could really stay undiscovered all this while? Why can't we call it a day? When the news first came, it was interesting. The increasingly ridiculous claims undermine our own intelligence.

From Bloomberg.com: 30 March 2006. Malaysia to Send Expedition Into Rainforests to Find Bigfoot

Malaysia's Johor state government is mounting a scientific expedition next month to track down a gap-toothed Bigfoot, or ape man, in the 248 million-year-old rainforests near Singapore. The hunt was sparked by reports last year of three strange creatures spotted walking beside a river by workers in Johor, which revived tales of Bigfoot sightings in the jungle among the indigenous people who live in the forests. Discussions on the Internet including the Web site of the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization fueled the hype.

``Myths do not leave footprints," said Vincent Chow, a member of the Malaysian Nature Society, who has measured and photographed large footprints at the sites of reported Bigfoot encounters in Malaysia.

Tales of Bigfoot from the Sasquatch in the U.S. to the Himalayan Yeti haven't yielded concrete proof of the creature's existence. In the U.S. and elsewhere, no Bigfoot body has ever been found, and many of the footprints and sightings reported over the years have turned out to be hoaxes, the National Geographic said in 2003. Still, the search for the creature in Johor may boost tourism to the state's national parks.

``It has created a lot of excitement," said Freddie Long, the chairman of Johor's Tourism and Environment Committee. There is ``great potential" for tourism. Finding evidence of Bigfoot in Malaysia will be challenging, given the size of the rainforests in the country, Chow said. The Endau Rompin national park, where the Johor government plans to focus its search, is the size of neighboring Singapore, he said.

It will be like ``looking for a needle in a haystack," Chow said. ``If you want to do this kind of research, it must be long term."

Others expressed doubts Bigfoot exists in the Johor jungle.``I don't know what to believe, whether it's the government hyping it up so that they'll get more tourism in that area," said June Rubis, a 29-year-old researcher for the Wildlife Conservation Society Malaysia, who has worked on primate projects for about five years. ``It just seems so incredulous."

WWF-Malaysia, the World Wide Fund for Nature's Malaysian chapter, declined to comment on the Bigfoot search, saying it's focusing on its conservation projects.

That won't stop the state government from trying. Next month, it will send an expedition consisting of scientists, zoologists and animal nutritionists from local universities to search different areas of the national park, Long said, without providing more details.

That's after a ``preliminary expedition" by a team of national park rangers, forestry officials and Orang Asli, or indigenous people, into the state's forest reserves in March, Long said. A report is being compiled, he added.

The hunt follows the discovery of at least 35 previously undocumented species, including frogs, butterflies and plants, in the mountains of Indonesia's Papua province. The discoveries were made during an expedition by a team of U.S., Indonesian and Australian scientists who in December visited the remote Foja Mountains in Papua, the Washington D.C.-based environmental group Conservation International said on its Web site in February.

The government is counting on local accounts of sightings of a Bigfoot-like creature. The Orang Asli of Johor say the lush Endau valley in which they live was once inhabited by a tribe of hairy giants called ``Serjarang Gigi," or People with Widely Spaced Teeth.

Modern Malaysian villagers have reported seeing a tall ape- like creature they call the Mawas, an Indonesian name for the orangutan, which is indigenous to Borneo but not the Malay peninsular, Chow said. Based on eyewitness

accounts collected by Chow, a 58-year- old horticulturalist, the Malaysian Bigfoot is six to 12-feet tall and the shorter ones have reddish brown fur while the taller ones are almost black.``They have an upturned nose, the eyebrow ridge is very high and protruding. There seems to be some depression on the top of the head meaning their cranial cavity is probably rather small," Chow said. ``It walks like a very sad old man, and it has piercing red eyes."

Johor Chief Minister Abdul Ghani Othman said in February he believed Bigfoot was roaming the jungles of his state because the indigenous people who have reported Bigfoot encounters wouldn't make up stories.

The possibility of an undiscovered ape species is ``really cool and exciting, but whether it's in Johor, I don't know, I'm not too sure," Rubis said. ``Based on what we have right now, I can't say for sure there is Bigfoot."

* "Michael Newton" <eyeofnewt@att.net> |
From the New Straits Times (Malaysia): 23 March 2006, Bigfoot footprints destroyed, By R. Sittamparam

KOTA TINGGI: Tracks resembling giant footprints in forests around Kampung Lukut and Kampung Temening are being erased, seemingly to distract foreign tour groups on Bigfoot sighting expeditions here. The authorities have cut the eco-tourist influx at these villages and nearby foothills by bulldozing and clearing the secondary forest where the Bigfoot footprints and other evidence were discovered. A check by the New Straits Times showed the secondary jungle area beside the tar road where a set of Bigfoot footprints was first found by local jungle trekker Kong Nam Choy on Jan 16 had been cleared. Foreign tour groups have been coming in big numbers and according to locals, this new eco-tourism activity had started after an expedition on Feb 20 by a team of local and foreign media members and researchers. The team comprising American and local film crews, members of the Singapore Paranormal Investigators and a foreign newspaper journalist were led by Kong to discover fresh Bigfoot footprints at Kampung Lukut.

The team produced the first plaster cast of a clear footprint, believed to have been made by the Johor Bigfoot, which was widely reported in the local and foreign media. It is believed that since then tour groups in Singapore had been organizing Bigfoot tours to Kota Tinggi, for foreign and local tourists although this brought no benefit to locals.

Kong said yesterday that tourists would arrive in cars and vans as early as 6am to trek into the secondary jungle at the two villages, looking for evidence of Bigfoot. It is sad to note that the authorities who showed little interest in promoting eco-tourism here had chosen to take this most irrational step to stop the foreign visitors following the global interest in the Johor Bigfoot.

Biodiversity researcher, Vincent Chow said with some help from the relevant authorities, the villagers in the area could have reaped some benefits from the tourism potential of the area. "The people's representative here should look into developing this eco-tourism potential and charge visitors a fee to enter their land and provide car parking or guide service. "The whole of Kota Tinggi should be promoted as Bigfoot country as eco-tourism has already been generated by the Bigfoot phenomena here."

* A Used Shipping Container Could be a Trap or Observation Post Roger Knights

A used shipping container could be made into a Bigfoot trap or observation post. It would be easy to truck a container to a roadside site—that's how they're meant to be moved. Containers could even be trucked to some off-road sites. For remoter locations, a helicopter could do the job. (Containers come in lengths of 10, 20, and 40 feet—a ten-footer should be light enough to lift.)

Vendors can be found in the Yellow Pages of port cities under the heading "Containers—Cargo & Shipping." They are inexpensive and in good supply—especially on the west coast, where there is a glut. I remember being quoted a price of $2000. (Or you could rent one.) I've also seen them offered on eBay for $950, in good condition. A search of Google for "'shipping containers' for sale" brought up 20,000 hits, plus some sponsored links. Most vendors push their more expensive new items, the stock of used items being somewhat unpredictable. After a container has served its purpose, some vendors will buy it back—at a lower price, of course.

I — As a Trap: Place the container on an incline of 10° or more, with its open end uphill, and set the doors open about 75°. Then, when the trap is sprung and the doors are released, they will swing shut by gravity. (To ensure the Bigfoot is well inside when this occurs, heavily grease the floor two feet in from the doorway.)

(This would be simpler to construct than a "portcullis" door (a metal grid that drops down a pair of vertical grooves and engages a simple latch), which was used in the famous BF trap in Oregon. For a picture, see the photos after p. 96 of Marian Place's On The Track of Bigfoot.)

Here are some simpler features that would be needed:

1. An awning over entrance to keep out the rain.
2. A viewing port (or ports) and installed fish-eye door-viewers.
3. A food-dish slot.
4. An air-exhaust port on the roof, with a fan (air intake would be through the food slot).
5. A port (or ports) for a flashlight, and/or some hard-to-break internal source of illumination that could be turned on from outside.
6. A port for a water hose to be inserted and fill a drinking trough attached to an inner wall.
7. For bait—a tethered scoftic dipped in honey!
8. I haven't envisaged the mechanisms to spring the trap and to "shoot the bolt" after the doors have closed. I'll leave that you someone more mechanically adept than myself.

An attendant should visit the trap at least once a day to provide food and water to any captured Bigfoot, and to release any inadvertently captured animal. (The trap in Oregon caught one bear—and one hippie who ignored the warning sign.)

With modern electronics the trap could be monitored remotely. A wireless "Cellular Scout" camera could send an alert and a picture (via cell phone) to an attendant who could remotely spring the trap and shoot the bolt, and who'd broadcast a "buzz-off" signal to any ordinary wildlife that approached.

The food-dish slot would also accept a hose that could feed in an anesthetic gas, with the aid of the exhaust fan to pull it in. (The edge of the slot could

be stuffed or slat with a towel to keep it airtight.) The Bigfoot would be watched during this process through the view port, to ensure that just enough gas was used.

II—As an Observation Post: I've read suggestions that researchers attempt to habituate Bigfeet to their presence by building a cabin in a remote location. But, if one lacks building skills, an alternative would be to plop down a used shipping container on the site. This would be more livable than a tent.

In a rural area with relaxed building codes, a container would also make a neat outbuilding for storage, or could serve as a spare room—e.g., a rec room or library. Indeed, one could be purchased primarily for such purposes. Also, in a flood-prone area, such truck-able rooms and outbuildings could be moved to higher ground if rising waters threatened them. (A good reason perhaps to construct an entire homestead out of such containers, arranged in a spoke pattern around a central kitchen/bathroom hub.) They'd also be fireproof—at least against wildfires. So maybe they'd be good in fire-prone areas like So. Cal.—if the building-code people would go along. (But, lacking windows, sanitation, electricity, and heating, they'd likely be objected to.)

If you lack money, or don't want to make a heavy commitment to Bigfoot-searching, you could briefly rent an unused lookout tower (type rent lookout tower into your search engine to locate sources). Or you could rent a room in a house in an area that has a history of visitations.

Even cheaper would be to enlist, as volunteers, residents of areas with many sightings (e.g., Fouke, AR) by giving them instruction booklets on techniques for, baiting, habituating, and setting up camera traps, or (better) by asking local newspapers to reprint such instructions. More adventurously, lend them cheap cameras to carry, or even helmet-mounted video-cameras to wear, with a promise of a reward for any footage they capture.

This is the smart way to hunt—play the odds and cut costs. Persistence should pay off.

* "Ben Blake" <danegeld2@msn.com>

Is There a Bigfoot in Your Backyard? Michigan Author Offers Explanation of Unique Signs and Clues. Since 2003, Michigan author and Bigfoot expert Lisa Shiel has found and photographed Bigfoot signs and established a rudimentary two-way communication with them – all in her own 40-acre backyard. In her new book – "Backyard Bigfoot: The True Story of Stick Signs, UFOs, & the Sasquatch" – she details Bigfoot's history, challenges modern theories of human evolution, and describes the Bigfoot-UFO connection. With over 100 photographs and drawings and dozens of endnotes referencing a wide array of published research, "Backyard Bigfoot" offers exciting and educational insights into an elusive phenomenon.

Lake Linden, MI (PRWEB) March 20, 2006 -- When Michigan author and Bigfoot expert Lisa Shiel explores her 40-acre backyard, she not only finds signs indicating the presence of Bigfoot (or Sasquatch) but also clever ways to establish a two-way communication. And she has been doing this since November 2003, finding – and photographing – clues and signs of Bigfoot's existence and psychology where others typically see nothing of significance.

Not content to just document her findings, Shiel has written a groundbreaking book about Bigfoot and its relationship to another equally baffling phenomenon – the innumerable sightings of unidentified flying objects (UFOs). In fact, Shiel's book – "Backyard Bigfoot: The True Story of Stick Signs, UFOs, & the Sasquatch" (Slipdown Mountain Publications LLC. March 2006. ISBN 0974655368) – carefully lays out the historical record, from the Ice Age to today, of Bigfoot's existence, challenges the status quo of human evolution, and carefully details the well-established Bigfoot-UFO connection. Thoroughly illustrated with over 100 photographs and drawings and meticulously referenced with copious endnotes, "Backyard Bigfoot" explores what is known and extends it into her own unique, but well documented, theories.

Nick Redfern, well-known investigator into cryptozoological and UFO anomalies, calls Shiel's work "insightful, thought-provoking and always-entertaining." Bigfoot author and field investigator Thom Powell notes that Lisa Shiel has "brutally assessed the current state of paleoanthropology" and "is to be commended for her years of field observations, thorough presentation of academic considerations, and willingness to develop a coherent theory that unifies disparate academic and field matters."

Shiel's academic and field research continues as she strives to answer ages-old enigmas and meld wide-ranging data into a rational new hypothesis. While physicists pursue their grand unified theory, Lisa Shiel chases the equally elusive proof of humanity's origins and relationship to the hairy hominids we've dubbed Bigfoot. Her entertaining and educational insights into all aspects of Bigfoot, UFOs, human origins, and ancient history can be found on her Strange Origins Blog at Origins.Slipdown Mountain.com. In 2005, she founded the Michigan Upper Peninsula Bigfoot Organization (MPUBO) and can be reached via the MUPBO website (www.UPBigfoot.com) or via email at e-mail protected from spam bots.

Based in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Slipdown Mountain Publications LLC publishes fine art prints and books on fiction, aviation history and cryptozoology. The company plans to publish two or three new books per year. Books may be purchased via the company's website (SlipdownMountain.com) or by phoning 866-686-6706 (toll-free).http://www.prweb.com/releases/2006/3/prweb360597.htm. Venerable Bee

* Dearest Ray,

It has been a while since we wrote and I felt inclined to give an update. I got the newsletter in the mail and I enjoyed the stories within. Thank you for all the coverage you allotted my research down here. Right now I am moving to my research area. The Ss live there on that farm or at least frequent daily. I was given a warm greeting Saturday afternoon while giving my mother and niece a tour. They were in the vehicle and the Ss made the funniest noise! I knew right away it was them because of the feeling coming from them. It was playful, and funny. You know how a cat can do a purring meow? Well, that's what they did, only with the volume of a surround sound stereo. Hehe. It had that same high pitch to it, and the rolled 'r' to

the start. I waved to where it was coming from. I can tell that living there is going to be such a whirlwind adventure, Ray. They have also started visiting a friend of the family who lives adjacent to the new place, but in the woods. They're so far, just watching now. Previous to my visit with him at his home where they saw me and I said he was my friend they were stench blasting him with what he described as "big cat" or "bear" scent. As I've smelled neither, I have no clue as to what that smells like although I'm sure not pleasant. Since that, he just feels their presence, but hasn't been stench blasted. I'm sure I'll have plenty to share once I get settled in to the new place. Now, in regards to my friends farm with the braiding of the horse mane, they have picked up the pace and become more intricate with the braiding. Experimenting, she decided to tie some ribbon onto the mane and it was incorporated into the twisted braids too! It is so exciting. She had her first full length visual of one this weekend near her land but not on it from about 200 feet. I suggested to her that we write another article pertaining to the ribbons too. Would you like that? Well, I'll let you go. Here is a photo of the ribbon braiding/twists. New test shows what she did the first day. You see that by the next day the blue ribbon was messed with. I will suggest that if they do not use the other ones, that she switch to all blue ribbon. Maybe we'll find color preferences??? I'd like to see that.
Chanda R. McCrary

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From the Toronto Globe & Mail: 1 April 2006, Tracking a tall tale, Bigfoot specialist inspires off-road safaris in the wilds of Vancouver Island, BRAM EISENTHAL

SHAWNIGAN LAKE, B.C. -- They're as old as time, perhaps inhabitants of this planet longer than us. Some native North American tribes refer to them as naxnox, or supernatural beings, and have encountered them for centuries. Fishermen, loggers, hikers and day trippers claim to have seen them on occasion. We're talking about Sasquatch, Bigfoot or Wildman -- it doesn't matter what you call them, it appears they're here, living among us. Unless, that is, you think every one of the thousands who claim to have seen them are charlatans. April fools? Hardly. For five years now, Sasquatch enthusiasts, or those simply looking for an unusual adventure experience, can head out into Vancouver Island's deep woods on expeditions inspired by a man who has spent more than three decades obsessed by the mysterious creature. For 35 years, during a career as a wildlife biologist, John Bindernagel has collected Sasquatch lore and "evidence." He has written numerous papers on the subject and a recent book, North America's Great Ape: The Sasquatch. (Note: John has been to the WBS Conferences to talk about his book in the past, Ray)

He's so serious about his passion that he doesn't even like the term Bigfoot. "I use Sasquatch instead of Bigfoot, because the latter has such a jestful connotation. Bigfooters see the creature behind every tree," Bindernagel told me late at night, in a bed and breakfast owned by Michael and Elly Ruge in Cowichan Valley, on the shores of Shawnigan Lake about 45 kilometres north of Victoria. Michael has set up a unique tour business under Bindernagel's guidence. The latter's mother was Ruge's nanny once and, though he's now in his mid-forties, he has maintained close ties to the bright, affable and deadly serious Bindernagel. "Knowing him as I do, I really believe in John's work, so I wanted to create a business around his research," Ruge says. "Bigfoot Safari was the answer." For five years now, guests can head out into the deep woods and isolated mountain country of the Island. Individuals or groups drive 4x4s such as Land Cruisers to areas where there have been claims of Sasquatch sightings. "The odds of finding something are slight, especially on the shorter trips, "Ruge said. "But you never know." I took a Land Cruiser out for an afternoon, with Ruge as my guide and Bindernagel as our passenger. I struggled with the wheel of the powerful vehicle as I learned how to manoeuvre it over fallen tree trunks and along old logging roads. We didn't happen across anything unusual, but the exhilaration of off-road driving and the lush scenery was thrilling enough. Ruge also books week-long excursions, with participants living and sleeping in the wild. As he says, you just never know. It's a matter of faith, I suppose, whether you believe a humanoid throwback like Sasquatch truly exists.

For Bindernagel, the author of numerous papers and a recent book on the Sasquatch, there is no doubt. Ontario-raised and educated at the University of Guelph, where he graduated as a wildlife ecologist, he came to B.C. primarily to search for Sasquatch. He was also fed up with the prevailing attitudes on the subject. Every year, until winter snows make it difficult, Bindernagel is out on field trips for days on end, looking for signs such as Sasquatch nests, hair, spoor or footprints, such as the ones he made castings of in October, 1988. He discovered the tracks while hiking on the shore of Lake Helen Mackenzie, in Strathcona Provincial Park. Back at Ruge's B & B, Bindernagel pulls out a box, reaches inside and lays an assortment of castings on a table. They're very human-like in appearance, but huge: 15 to 16 inches long and five to six inches wide. The implications are rather unsettling, as is the image of encountering a creature reputed to be seven to 10 feet tall. The biologist's biggest challenge is to find an actual specimen or some other irrefutable proof to garner respect from his peers. According to Ruge, the purpose of Bigfoot Safaris is to support Bindernagel and his research whenever possible. "We also help expose people to the research that has been done, through the excursions we take into the wilderness of Vancouver Island," he said. That night, I slept in fits and starts. Though very comfortable in a modern, fully equipped upper loft-like hideaway the Ruges call Taj Lodge, I kept picturing an eight-foot tall Sasquatch coming out of the forest behind me and peering into the window above my head as I slept. About 3 a.m., I was wakened by what sounded like a rock striking the log wall of the building, making a hollow, ringing sound. I'll never know who or what flung that projectile, but it certainly fired up my already swollen imagination and had my heart break-dancing until I nodded off again. The next morning, I had an encounter along the Victoria waterfront that really had me pondering the mystery again. Vendors, mostly Canadian natives, sell various goods here during the summer months. I jokingly asked one artist if he had any Sasquatch sketches. "I had a couple last summer, but I haven't drawn any more this year," said 68-year old Thunderbird T-Thedu. "We saw one, my wife and I, just outside McKenzie Creek." He

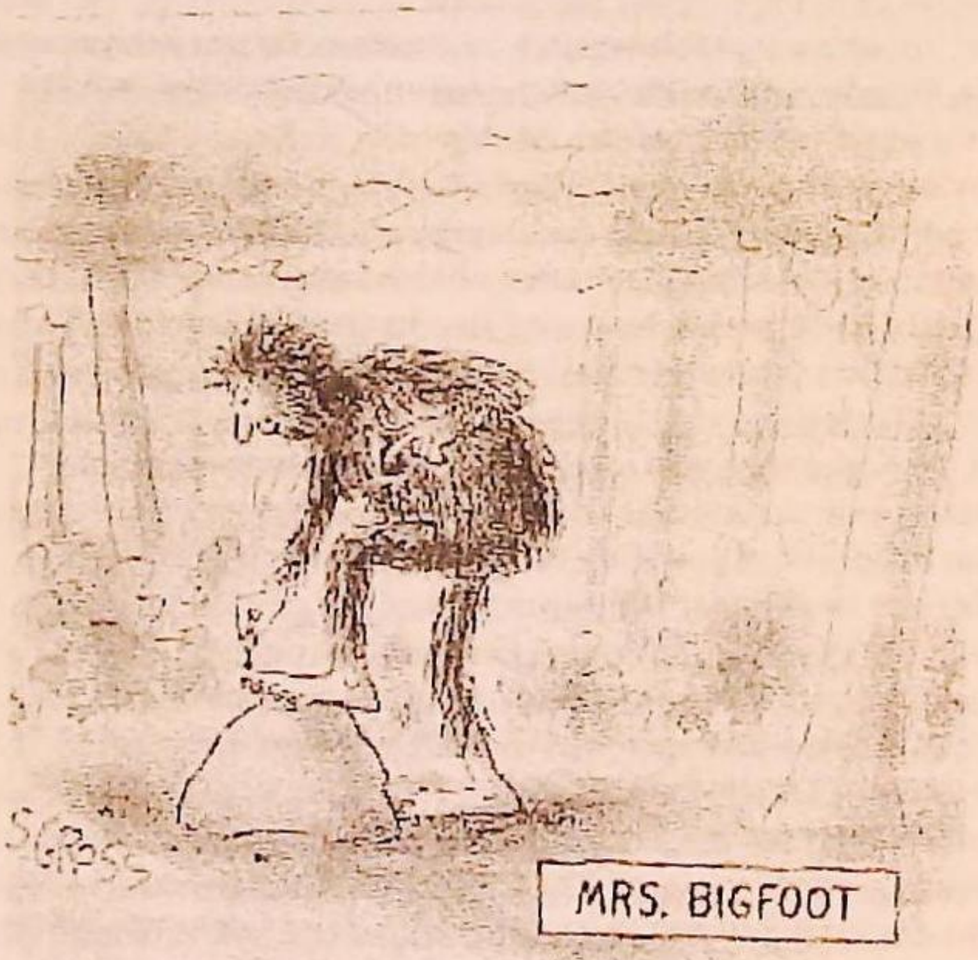
went on to relate a chilling tale of how, while mushroom picking, he and wife, Margaret Summers, stumbled upon a large, hairy, humanlike creature foraging for food at the base of a hill about two hours from Victoria. When they called out to the creature, it "jumped up the hill very fast, or so it appeared," he says. Minutes later, Summers comes by. "Tell him about the Sasquatch we saw," her husband prods. Her details are exactly the same. Summers also told me that they met "this guy who saw the same thing two years prior to that, a mile down the road. Ken and his wife, Sandy, both saw it. And around that time, their rather hefty dog, a cross between a Saint Bernard and a German shepherd, disappeared." The couple found it later, dead, appearing as if it had been strangled, a fact later confirmed by a veterinarian. "That really gave me the chills," T-Thedu comments. "That was a dog which could easily defend itself."

Sasquatch Hunter's Rule No. 1: Leave the family pooch at home. Pack your bags, HUNT FOR SASQUATCH

Bigfoot Safari: 2374 Renfrew Rd., Shawnigan Lake, B.C.; 1-866-553-3668 or 250-733-2233; http://www.bigfootsafari.com. A one-day adventure in a 4x4 costs $199 a person; Friday night to Monday morning is $999. A week-long safari for groups or individuals is $5,000 a person.

WHERE TO STAY, Shawnigan Shores Bed and Breakfast: 250-733-2233; lakebb.com. Rates are $200 to $300 a room, double, in summer and fall.

MORE HAIR TWISTS BY CHANDA



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Subject: [Bigfoot] Vance Orchard author of Bigfoot Of The Blues Died Tuesday, March 7th

Here is his obituary from the Walla Walla Union Bulletin. Vance was much loved and did a lot for Bigfoot. He was also a personal friend and put my stories in his 1st Bigfoot book "Bigfoot of The Blues.

Below is the Obituary

Vance Orchard, storyteller and historian, dies. Friends and family recall his passions for journalism, community and history.

>> By SHEILA HAGAR, TERRY McCONN and ANNIE CHARNLEY EVELAND of the
>> Union-Bulletin

>> An ardent historian known for his reporting, roving and rambling
>> died Tuesday at his Walla Walla home. He was 88.

>> Vance Orchard, a longtime reporter at the Union-Bulletin, discusses one of his favorite topics, Bigfoot, in this file photo. Orchard died Tuesday in Walla Walla at age 88. He worked at the paper for 32 years, retiring in 1983. Former Union-Bulletin reporter Vance Orchard was diagnosed with cancer just over a week ago, and his family was by his side 24 hours a day until his death, said his daughter, Dollyjean Pettyjohn of College Place.

Former U-B publisher Chuck Cochrane today said Orchard will be remembered for three passions: journalism, community and history. ``He was just a wonderful journalist,'' Cochrane said. ``He cared deeply and knew everything about the community'' and provided colleagues a ``wonderful perspective'' of the area's history.

Former Whitman College library archivist Larry Dodd, a good friend of Orchard, recalled this morning his many activities.``Vance was involved in a lot of things,'' Dodd said.

Orchard was interested in older people and their lives ``which became very important in understanding local history,'' according to Dodd.

Orchard volunteered in the archive department for a number of years.

He also was a major player in the early development of the Walla Walla Pioneer & Historical Society.

``He and (his wife) Janette traveled a lot, mainly in the western part of the United States,'' Dodd said. ``He loved to travel around because as a roving reporter he did that all the time, finding projects he'd like to write about.''

Orchard was born Dec. 26, 1917, in Orin, Wash., to S. Vance and Marian Pearle Foust Orchard.

While his first love was commercial art, he became interested in journalism in high school. Orchard came to this area in 1951 after working at weekly papers in Auburn and Sumner, Washington.

Soon after, he joined the U-B and became the newspaper's outdoor reporter, covering the eastern side of Oregon and Washington.

It was work he loved, Orchard said in a 1983 column. Although he was a ``bookish'' boy, he grew enamored of lugging gear up mountains and ``shivering'' under the stars at night. It was in the Walla Walla Valley the journalist developed a talent for fishing and long hours on the road, he said.

During that time, Orchard also covered President Eisenhower's 1954 visit to Walla Walla and Vice President Lyndon Johnson's trip here in 1961.

Orchard was more often out of the newsroom than in until a restructured news beat planted him more firmly at a desk. He conceded in a 1984 U-B article that becoming deskbound was rough in the beginning, but his new assignment - agricultural coverage - was enjoyable.

``Doing farm coverage was a big part of what I'd been doing all along. I was always doing something about a bang-up job of soil conservation or somebody producing calves to beat the band,'' Orchard said at the time.

He also had stints as religion and county courthouse reporter and food editor.

Orchard eventually began producing a column, ``Blue Mountain Ramblings,'' for the Sunday edition of the paper, as well as a regular senior citizen feature.

He also wrote an ``Outdoors in the Blues'' column that was taken over by outdoors reporter Don Davis upon Orchard's retirement on Dec. 31, 1983, after 32 years at the newspaper.

He continued his column until the end of 1989, then started ``Touchet Valley Ramblings'' in The Times of Waitsburg. He wrote his final column three weeks ago, according to co-publisher and editor Loyal Baker. It appears in Thursday's edition.

``He truly loved what he did - meeting people and writing about them,'' Baker said.

Former Times publisher Tom Baker also recalled Orchard as a ``people person.''

``He liked finding something out about someone else and reporting on it and putting a different angle on it.''

Well-known throughout the area, Orchard would often participate in Oregon trail rides, for instance.

``He just liked people and liked to depict their history and what they were doing,'' Tom Baker said.

Orchard compiled his columns into two books and wrote two volumes on one of his favorite topics, Bigfoot.

U-B Editor Rick Doyle said this morning, ``He truly believed that it existed and continued to do so to the very end.''

Orchard's success stemmed from his down-to-earth personality and honest concern for people, according to Doyle. ``Vance had a great ability to connect with people, the real people, as opposed to celebrities and such,'' Doyle said.

Orchard was involved with the writing and publication of a 1981 book about John G. Kelly, former publisher of the Union-Bulletin, remembered Robert Keatts of the Fort Walla Walla museum.

The writer continued his work with the museum up until the time of his death, Keatts added. ``He was a tough bird. Very kind, very gentle. And he loved writing about history.''

Orchard married his high school sweetheart, Janette Armstrong, in 2002, and is survived by her at the home. Survivors also include two sons, Willis and Paul Orchard; and three daughters, Dollyjean Pettyjohn, Marian Hamilton and Charlene Slater; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by wives Pearl Orchard, Marguerite McAllister Orchard and Mary Mayberry Orchard.

Her dad was full of life, Pettyjohn said. While his job kept him away from home four days a week, he always attended special family functions. And it's the stories he wrote that people will remember him by, she feels.

``Everybody loved them.''

Sent by Sheryl Jenkins - a personal friend of Vance Orchard he will be missed.

THANKS ALSO DAR

BigfootTVDocumentary.doc

RAMBLER TO THE TIMES … Bigfoot Was Ready for TV?

A SAMPLE OF WAITSBURG NEWS ARTICLE BY VANCE

One could almost get the impression that the Bigfoot creatures were alerted ahead of time that a television documentary crew was coming to their neighborhood to shoot some film.

Or, it seemed that way when the crew from Planet Grande Pictures, of Malibu CA showed up and interviewed some of the Walla Walla people who have been involved for many years in this Bigfoot matter. It's an issue which zoomed off into national publicity for this area when the late Paul Freeman reported having come upon one in his patrol duties with the Forest Service in 1982.

No longer is it any secret that the creatures possibly make their home in the nearby Blue Mountains (and there has been evidence of a "family" of two juveniles and one or more adults, judging from tracks on more than one occasion.).

So, it was somewhat of an anomaly that the TV program is titled "Small Town Secrets," viewed here on Cable channel 43 (CMT) coming on following "The Dukes of Hazzard," at 8 [p.m. on a Friday.

Invited to appear for interviews were Brian Smith, Dar and Mark Addington and this writer, all from Walla Walla, and Bill Laughery of West Richland. The family of the late Wes Sumerlin were scheduled for interviews but apparently time ran out for the TV crew. This amounts to a major mistake because there is likely no other group of people more knowledgeable about this feature of the Blues, as they have witnessed it over many years and some of that prior to that 1982 report by Freeman.

The crew was Tiller Rusell, director; Loren Mendell, cameraman and Curt Miles, sound man. Veterans of many such filmings for the TV program about some of the things that go on in small towns, the men were eager to get into their tasks as "stuff about Bigfoot is No. 1 for viewers," one said.

Laughery and I led off the interviewing and provided some background for the program. Laughery has been involved in this for several years and is an admitted "one time skeptic of the whole thing." Until he saw his first track, that is. The one time game warden and Columbia County native son has seen a couple of the "real things" too.

The Bigfoot thing has been high on my personal agenda of Blue Mountains subjects since I wrote a story about a motorcyclist having come across some "really humongus" tracks on the Mill Creek Road above the intake back in 1966. The AP story was read in Yakima by the late Roger Patterson and he came over here to check them out and my interest has gone from there to include a pair of books about the Bigfoot we have found here.

So, it really hasn't been exactly a well-kept small town secret!

A unique aspect of those who hunt Bigfoot around here are the pack goats raised by the Addingtons on Locati Lane. One, a smallish doe critter even might tip them off some day to a Bigfoot. The animal has a keen nose and eye for the unusual items when on a woods trip, picking up a lone bear or elk on a sidehill long before her owners do. So, the Addingtons escorted Russel, Mendell and Miles up to the Five Points region above Dixie to show how the goat does her thing.

However much we might have been of help to the TV crew, it remained for the guy who is the prime hunter of Bigfoot around here these days, Brian Smith of Walla Walla, to really give the show a boost.

Smith took the guys right to a spot which has been a Bigfoot crossing in past years and bingo! A set of 14 ½-inch tracks and lots of them!

Just like I said: Almost like the critters knew the TV people were coming!

Smith said the tracks did not prove to be of first class quality due to the pounding rains the area had had prior to the camera coming along. Hopefully, the photo accompanying this column will reveal some details. Smith said the tracks measured 54 inches to 56 inches apart as the creature strode along.

"You know, your average," Smith wryly observed with a grin. "Going down a slope they increased to 60 inches apart."

The Bigfoot seemed to be "just striding along, not running or anything like that," Smith added.

The tracks were found at the top of the Scenic Loop Road, close to where Mormon Grade meets this roadway, Smith said. It was from this area 10 years ago that tracks of three creatures were found and followed several miles across a side-hill field down to the Meiners Road, then up it and back to the mountains.

Smith said he had asked the finder of the Skookum body cast prints in western Washington recently, Richard Noll, to check out the Scenic Loop tracks. Noll agreed that while the tracks were admittedly washed out and not in great shape they "were okay." Smith added.

So, if we around here have had a "little kept secret" about the Bigfoot matter, it just likely won't be a secret of any kind after the program "Small Town Secrets" hits the national TV air waves.

+++end

P.O. Box 992
Hermiston, OR 97838

March 17, 2006

FROM MIKE Say

Dear Ray,

January Track Record (#157) arrived yesterday; thanks. Always interesting...

Re: the article on the mane-braiding phenomenon; as your informant indicated this has been noted elsewhere, particularly in some of the Russian (Almasti) reports, and it isn't beyond the scope of reason that there might be something to it- but on the other hand (if you'll kindly allow me to play the Devil's Advocate here, once again!) I have to comment that I've seen similar things occur in circumstances where Sasquatch involvement was simply NOT at all feasible- so I'm convinced that we can't say "absolutely" that Biggie is the culprit, at least not in all cases. I owned horses for a number of years, as you'll recall, and have experienced the sudden appearance of odd-looking "mystery braids" myself, puzzling as to their specific causes and origins. The thing is, however, that I've had this occur both with horses pastured on rural property (where Sasquatch activity might have been a remote possibility, I suppose!) AND with horses boarded in secured stalls at established commercial stables, well within populous city neighborhoods surrounded by miles of concrete and asphalt... where one would assume, anyway, no Sasquatches could possibly be lurking. What I've observed certainly had the appearance of being deliberately "crafted" by human (or other) hands, I'll admit, but... appearances can also be quite deceiving, and in at least a couple of instances, I know beyond any reasonable shadow of a doubt that it simply WASN'T possible- ergo, unless somehow the "braids" appeared spontaneously, out of thin air as it were, there obviously had to be some other sort of explanation. Coincidently, this "mane braiding" seems not to occur with horses bearing shorter, more uniformly-trimmed or "roached" manes, only with the more "natural" or unkempt longish ones, and thus my theory is...

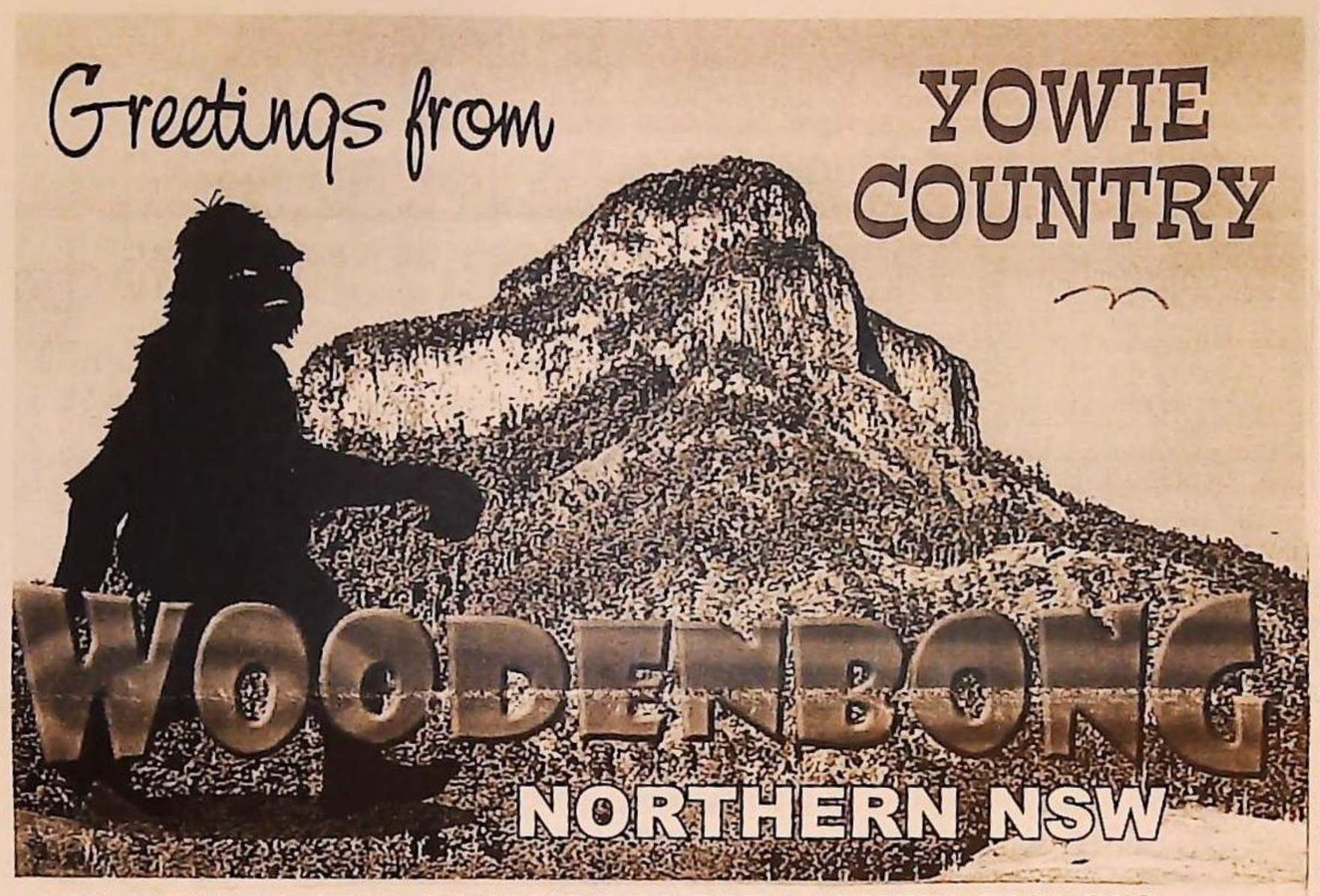
Horses like to brush up against or rub things; trees, fence posts, stall door frames, hay feeders, and so on. Horses ALSO like to shake their heads, and if they've rubbed up against something, gotten their manes caught- with or without realizing it!- and then start the head-shaking routine, sometimes they can and do manage to twist their own manes into quite intricate-looking knots which sometimes resemble those in the photos accompanying your article. Case solved? In many instances- in fact, I'd venture probably most- I think it likely is. I'm not saying this necessarily applies to EVERY situation, mind you, but I think it does to a LOT of 'em.

Also, there's this: what do we make of the far greater number of reports indicating that the presence of Sasquatches in a given area tends to panic or frighten dogs, cattle, horses and other domestic animals? Is it logical to presume that the average horse- Would especially one kept outdoors, presumably with plenty of room to run- actually allow itself to be approached by a Sasquatch, much LESS stand dociley by and permit its mane to be braided by said unknown hairy hominid? I'm guessing here, but I'd suppose that at least in the great majority of cases, probably NOT... not unless the pro-

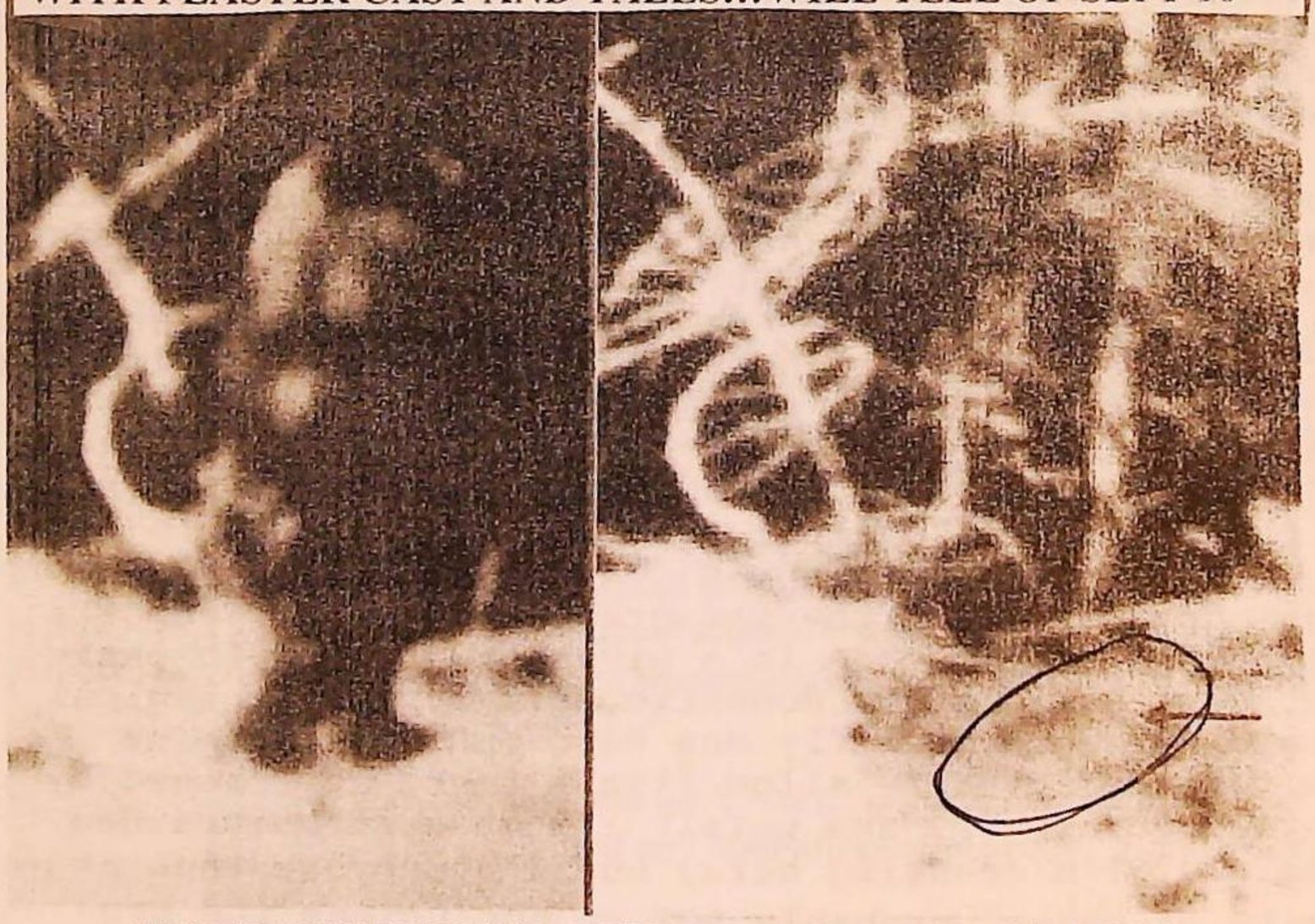
ponents of various Sasquatch "mind control" theories happen to be right, anyway, and that's a subject for an altogether different debate. And I believe you know my feeling on that particular score anyhow.

So, as per usual... just some thoughts I figured I'd pass along; up to you what to make of 'em.

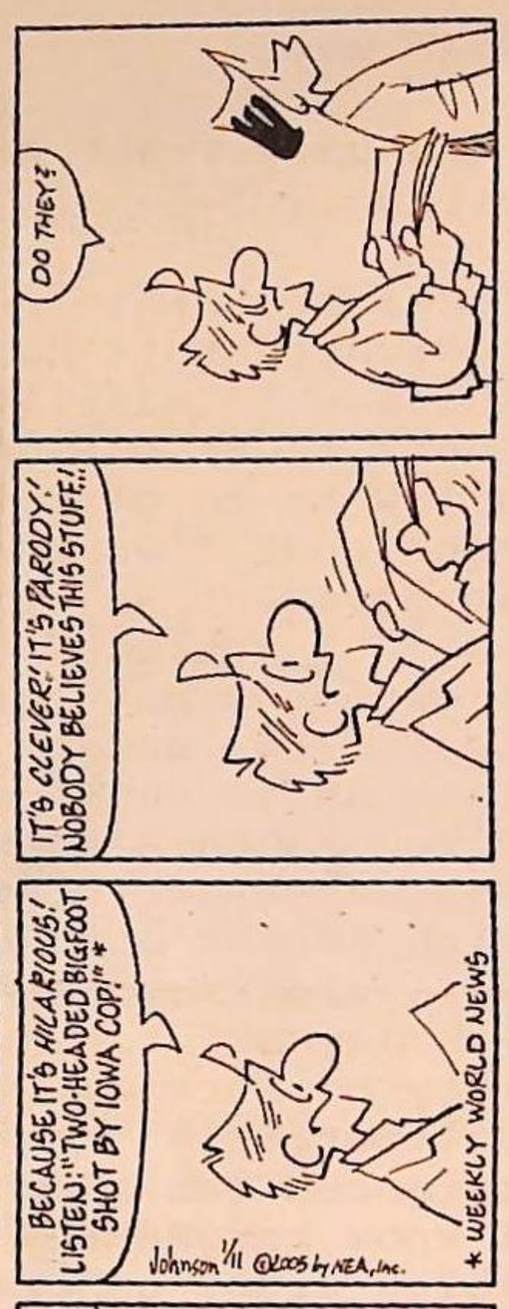
Hope the **Track Record's** appearance indicates you're home from the hospital and back on the mend; hate to see a good man down, as they say.



DON MONROE GOES DOWN UNDER FOR A MONTH, RETURNS WITH PLASTER CAST AND TALES...WILL TELL OF SEPT 10TH



M.K. DAVIS FINDS PATTY FOOTPRINT IN P/G FILM


DO THEY?
IT'S CLEVER! IT'S PARODY! NOBODY BELIEVES THIS STUFF!!
BECAUSE IT'S HILARIOUS! LISTEN: "TWO-HEADED BIGFOOT SHOT BY IOWA COP!" *
* WEEKLY WORLD NEWS
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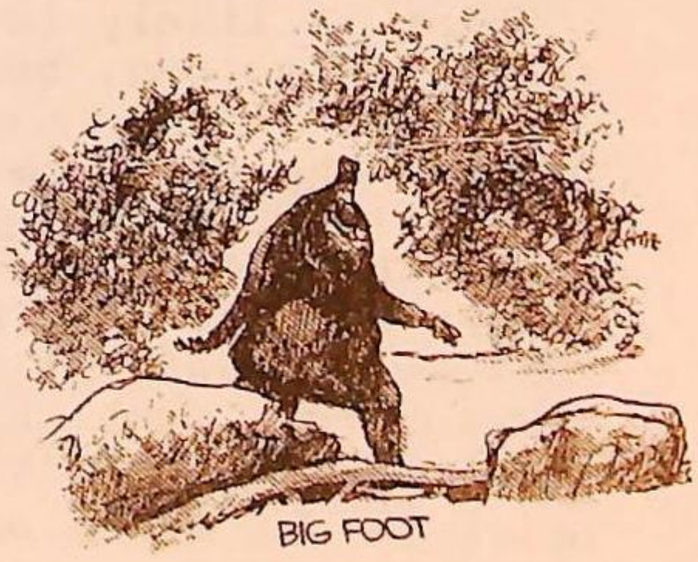
ARLO & JANIS
WHY ON EARTH DID YOU BUY THAT SUPERMARKET TABLOID?

AN URBAN MYTH



Chris R. Hyman
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel - Jan. 11, 2005 - D4